

Greenie Mountain

Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Unit

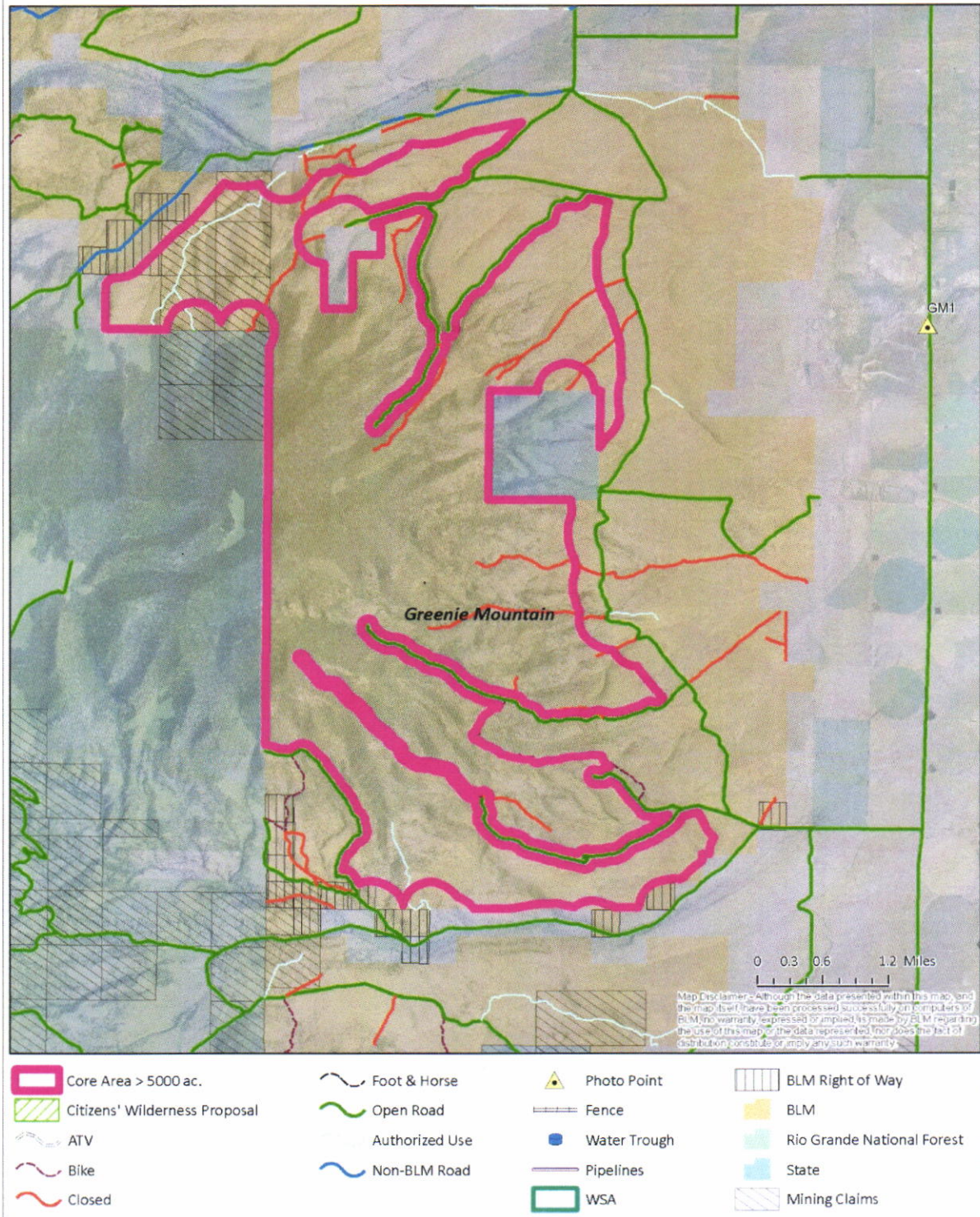


Figure 6 – Greenie Mountain

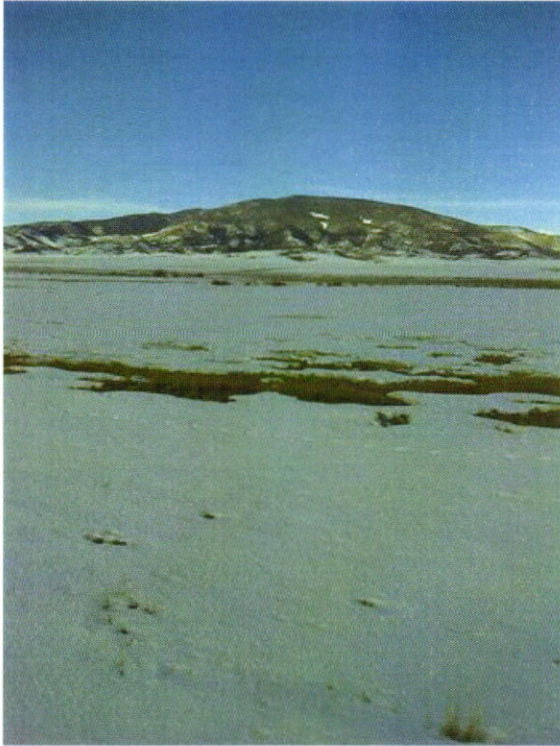
GREENIE MOUNTAIN

Photo Point GMI – From E Hwy 15 Looking
W to Greenie Mountain

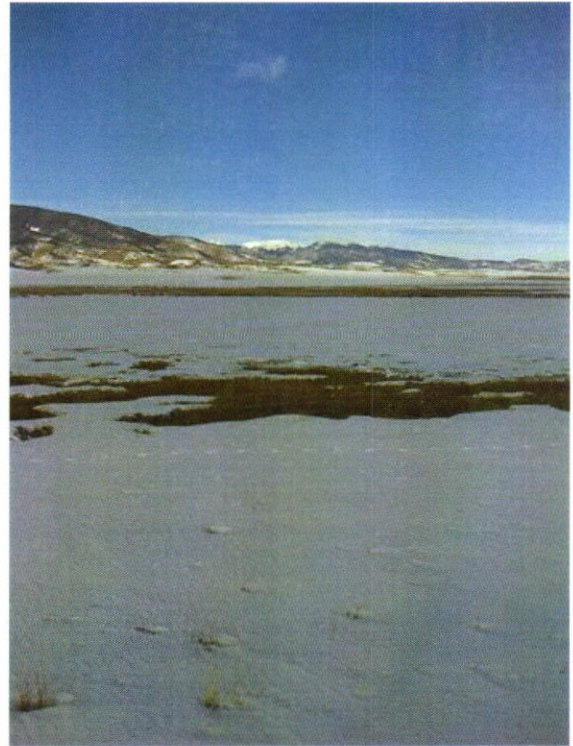


Photo Point GMI – From E Hwy 15 Looking NW

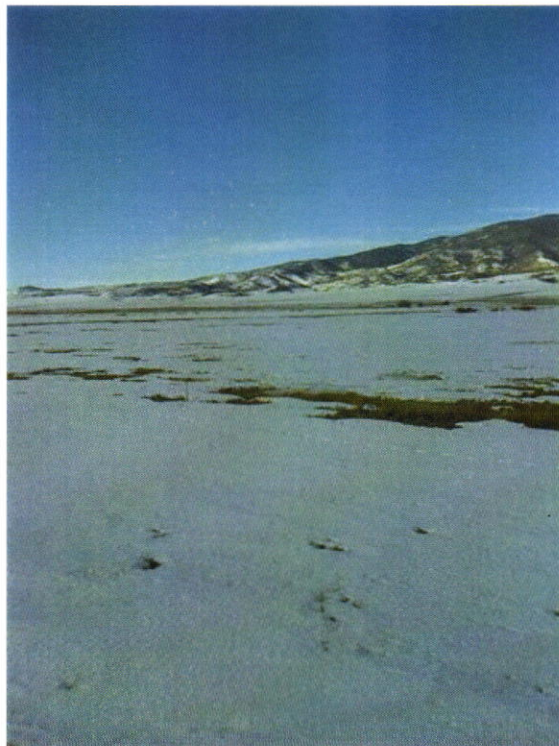


Photo Point GMI – From E Hwy 15 Looking
SW

**Form 1 – Documentation of BLM Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Findings
from Previous Inventory on Record**

(1) Is there existing BLM wilderness characteristics inventory information on all or part of this area?

No X (Go to Form 2) Yes _____ (If yes, and if more than one area is within the area, list the unique identifiers for those areas):

Form 2 - Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics

Area Unique Identifier: Greenie Mountain

Acreage: 11,011

(1) Is the area of sufficient size? (If the area meets one of the exceptions to the size criterion, check "Yes" and describe the exception in the space provided below)

Yes ☒ No ☐

Description (describe the boundaries of the area – wilderness inventory roads, property lines, etc.):

The Greenie Mountain inventory area is located entirely on BLM lands west of the Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge and approximately 6 miles SSW of the City of Monte Vista. It is bordered by Rio Grande County Road 28 on the north and northwest and by a mixture of private, BLM and State lands. The unit is bordered on the west by National Forest System lands, Rio Grande County Road 250 and private lands on the south, and BLM lands and one State section on the east. There are 3 active grazing leases, 3 Rights-Of-Way (one is pending), and 5 mining claims in the Greenie Mountain Unit.

(2) Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A ☐

Note: If "No" is checked, the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check "NA" for the remaining questions below.

Description (include land ownership, location, topography, vegetation, and summary of major human uses/activities):

The Greenie Mountain unit is located entirely on BLM lands. At its northeastern most tip, the Greenie Mountain unit is located about 6 mi south of the town of Monte Vista, which is located at the junction of Colorado Highway 15 and US Highway 285 in Rio Grande County, CO. Access to the unit is readily available via 2 county roads from nearby Colorado Highway 15 and subsequent BLM open system roads.

Greenie Mountain is a large inventory unit typified by open, relatively flat, terrain approaching Greenie Mountain proper, which is a prominent, forested hillside (see photos). Lands within the Greenie Mountain unit are classified primarily as Inter-Mountain Basins Semi-Desert Shrub Steppe, Inter-Mountain Basins Semi-Desert Grassland, Southern Rocky Mountain Piñon-Juniper Woodland, and Rocky Mountain Dry-Mesic and Mesic Mixed Conifer Forest and Woodland.

The principal human activities and imprints of man within the Greenie Mountain unit include livestock grazing and related facilities, such as water improvements and fences. Local area residents also utilize the area recreationally for such purposes as; OHV and backcountry driving, hunting and horseback riding. Increasingly, however, the unit is substantially (if not primarily) used for mountain biking (one of the fastest growing sports world-wide) and the BLM is currently analyzing citizen proposals for a mechanized, singletrack trail system in this same area. In the upper, forested section of Greenie Mountain, a hydro-axe thinning project was recently conducted in May 2012. Because of its proximity to some of the major population centers of the San Luis Valley (Monte Vista, Alamosa and Del Norte) and US Highways 160 and 285, and the area's popularity with motorized recreationists and hunters, a number of user-created roads noticeably exist across the landscape.

(3) Does the area (or the remainder of the area if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes ☐

No ☒

N/A ☐

Description (describe the area's outstanding opportunities for solitude):

Because of the close proximity to population centers and major highways in the San Luis Valley, as well as increasing popularity among mountain bikers, in addition to more traditional uses of this area (which include driving for pleasure, camping, firewood collecting and hunting), combined with the lowland area's minimal topographic relief, lack of vegetation suitable for screening, open terrain, and easy vehicular access throughout the area, *outstanding* opportunities for solitude do not exist in this unit. The area's higher, forested elevations offer more screening and a greater sense of solitude; however, at essentially no time is a visitor to this landscape free from the sights, sounds and works of man.

(4) Does the area (or the remainder of the area if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation?

Yes ☐

No ☒

N/A ☐

Note: If "No" is checked for both 3 and 4, the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check "NA" for question 5.

Description (describe the area's outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation):

The primary recreational use throughout the Greenie Mountain unit is currently a toss-up between motorized and mechanized uses. Primary activities include driving for pleasure, mountain biking, hunting, firewood collecting, and camping. There are several mechanized trails and a relatively high road density within the unit.

(5) Does the area have supplemental values (ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value)?

Yes ☐

No ☐

N/A ☒

Description:

SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS*

Area Unique Identifier: Greenie Mountain

Results of analysis:

Of the 11,011 acres analyzed, 0 acres have wilderness characteristics.

The Greenie Mountain unit is characterized in the lowlands by open, uniform terrain that lacks topographic and vegetative diversity or relief and has numerous system and user-created roads throughout, as well as range improvements for livestock operations. The forested uplands of the unit are easily accessible by motorized vehicle and heavily utilized by mountain bikers, OHV enthusiasts, hunters and firewood collectors, among others. It could be argued that the unit is not sufficiently natural to warrant wilderness character suitability, however, the lack of 'outstanding' opportunities for either solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation decisively prevent this unit from possessing wilderness characteristics.

1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? ☒ Yes ☐ No
2. Does the area appear to be natural? ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A
3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? ☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A
4. Does the area have supplemental values? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A

Check one:

☐ The area, or a portion of the area, has wilderness characteristics and is identified as lands with wilderness characteristics.

☒ The area does not have wilderness characteristics.

Prepared by (team members):

Sean Noonan, BLM Outdoor Recreation Planner

Clayton Davey, BLM Recreation Assistant

Heather Salaz, BLM Recreation Assistant

(Name, Title, Date)

Reviewed by (District or Field Manager):

Name: Andrew Archibut Title: Field Manager

Date: 3 July 2012

***This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under either 43 CFR parts 4 or 1610.5-3.**